MARVEL COMICS

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guest-starring VENOM!

DAREDEVIL®

"Fall from Grace" chapter 4

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

McDANIEL/GARRAHY

THE DARK PAST.

A HONG KONG ARENA, SOAKED IN MYSTERY AND BLOOD.

I'VE-- I'VE COME TO ASK--

YOU'VE COME HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO *HIDE* AMONG THE *SNAKEROOT*, HARRY "TNT" KENKOY.

HIDE FROM YOUR *SHAME* AND *FAILURE*.

NO! I'M -- I'M NO FAILURE, LORD DAITO. I'M -- I'M STILL A GENERAL -- UNITED STATES MARINE --

I HAVE *SECRETS* TO SHARE.

YOU *WERE* A GENERAL, KENKOY.

YOUR *COURT MARTIAL* IS NO SECRET.

STRIPPED OF *RANK*.

SHRIIT

BEATEN DOWN FOR *ACTS* OF *CONSPIRACY* AND MURDER.

FWUKA FWUKA FWUKA

WHAT HAVE YOU LEFT TO *LIVE* FOR?

THE *KUSARIGAMA* STRIKES ITS BLOW *SWIFT* AND DEEP.

CONSIDER IT A *MERCY KILLING*.

NO!

I DIDN'T *COME* ALL THIS WAY TO *DIE!*

-KRAAK!

WHAT *SCARES* YOU, LITTLE SOLDIER-BOY? FALLING *PREY* TO YOUR WEAKNESS...OR BEING STRONG ENOUGH TO PLAY THE *PREDATOR*?

I--I DON'T WANT TO--

P-PLEASE... NO...

HE'S A *SPRY* ONE, THIS HAROLD! I *LIKE* HIM!

YOUR *AFFECTIONS* ARE ALWAYS SO... *DISTURBED*... TEKAGI!

TEKAGI, BISENTO--BOTH OF YOU *QUIET*! WE MUST RESERVE ALL *JUDGMENT* UNTIL IT IS CLEAR...DOES *HUMANITY* WIN OUT?

OR IS THE *MAN INHUMAN* ENOUGH TO BE SNAKEROOT?

PLEASE--

OH, THAT WAS VERY *LIVELY*... I REALLY *ENJOYED* THAT!

YOU HAVE DIED, HARRY KENKOY, AND BEEN *REBORN* INTO THE *SNAKEROOT* OF THE HAND... WELCOME!

I HAVE--A GIFT... *INFORMATION*. A GOVERNMENT PROJECT CALLED "ABOUT FACE!" ITS *POWER* IS *UNIMAGINABLE*-- IT CAN--

NOT NOW, MY BUDO-- MY "MILITARY WAY!"

THERE IS ALL THE TIME WE NEED TO *EXPLOIT* THE *WORLD* AROUND. OUR *PLANS* ARE NOT JUST FOR TODAY...

...BUT THE *FUTURE*...

THE EVER-DARKENING PRESENT DAY OF MANHATTAN ISLAND.

27 BLOCKS WEST, 7 MINUTES BACK, THE HAND'S NINJA DESCENDED ON THE SPEEDING ENGINE AND SLAUGHTERED ITS COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS.

A CYBORG CALLED SIEGE AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR NAMED DAREDEVIL ARE ABOUT TO EVEN THE SCORE.

YOUR NEW FRIENDS CAN'T SAVE YOU, BISENTO!

The eternal man in the street says the street's no place for anyone anymore.

editorial, New York Times
December 29, 1980

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

fall from grace part 4

CONFLICT

COLLAZO & RANKIN
INKERS

BY D.G. CHICHESTER AND SCOTT McDANIEL • JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

• MAX SCHEELE
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• RALPH MACCHIO
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• TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A COMPUTER PROGRAM INSIDE THE METAL AND FLESH "THINKS" IT MIGHT BE A SOLDIER NAMED JOHN KELLY.

AND SECRETLY HOPES IT'S NOT JUST A DESPERATE COLLECTION OF BITS AND BYTES GONE LOONY.

SIEGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE ESPIONAGE AGENCY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO TRACK A STOLEN CYBORG WRECKAGE NAMED JOHN GARRET--

--AND HAS BECOME ENTANGLED IN DAREDEVIL'S HUNT FOR A VIRAL TREASURE KNOWN AS "ABOUT FACE."

ALL RIGHT, PAL--WHERE'S THE FIRE?

;HEH-HEH-HEH;-- ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT.

SLKRAAM

GENE-SPLICED TO THE BRAIN TISSUE OF MURDERED TELEPATH, THERESA BELLWEATHER, THE VIRUS WOULD RESPOND TO THOUGHT--

--AND CARRY OUT COMMANDS FROM THE INSIDE-OUT. CELLULAR CHANGES PHYSICALLY REMAKING THE "INFECTED"--

--BRINGING FORTH MIRACLES... OR NIGHTMARES.

SKREEEE

THERE IS BUT ONE REWARD FOR BETRAYING THE SNAKEROOT!

LOOK WHAT YOU WIN FOR STAYING LOYAL.

THE TRAITOR'S TIME TO DIE IS NOW, DAREDEVIL... AND YOURS IS LONG OVERDUE!

A CHILDHOOD ACT OF HEROISM HELPED SET THE COURSE FOR MATT MURDOCK'S LIFE--

--TAKING THE BOY'S SIGHT, BUT ENHANCING HIS REMAINING SENSES--

--AND PROVIDING A CRUDE INTERNAL RADAR TO HELP MAP THE BLACKNESS ALL AROUND.

FINGERS SEARCH OUT HIDDEN CONNECTORS--

KLIK

snaapt

TCHING

--TWO WEAPONS CONVERTING INTO ONE.

I'M SORRY... DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

THE SNAKEROOT HOLDS BOTH EDDIE PASSIM AND THE SECRETS HE KNOWS OF "ABOUT FACE"...

...PROTECTING BISENTO CAN DO NOTHING TO CHANGE THAT "HERO"!

CHAINS RETRACT CENTERS JOINING TOGETHER--

KCHINGT

MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO.

--COLLAPSIBLE SECTIONS EXTENDING OUT.

SNRAAPK

EITHER WAY, IT SURE FEELS GOOD!

YOUR EX-SWEETHEARTS HAVE GOT A NASTY WAY A' *DISSOLVING* INTO *SMOKE*, TURNCOAT!

THE NINJA-- LONG AGO *TRADED* IN THEIR *HUMANITY!*

AND ARE YOU TRYING TO *RECLAIM YOURS*, BISENTO? IS THAT WHY YOU'VE *OFFERED* TO *HELP* US FIND EDDIE?

THE SNAKEROOT'S *EVIL* IS *SEDUCTIVE*... BUT THEIR LATEST *PERVERSION*-- LEAVES ME *COLD!* HUNTING THE VIRUS--

--FOR ITS *POWER* TO *TRANSFORM!* FUSING--STOLEN *LIFE ESSENCE*-- TO THEIR NEW WARRIOR-- THE *CORPSE* ERYNYS!

ERYNYS... LIKE THE GREEK *SPIRIT* OF *ANGER?* SOUNDS LIKE A REAL BABE... FOR A STIFF!

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SUCH A *STUDENT* OF *MYTHOLOGY*, SIEGE.

DATA BANKS KICK IN WITH ALL SORTA B.S., HORNHEAD, I GOT *NO CONTROL*... NEXT TIME IT'LL BE *LYRICS* TO "LOUIE, LOUIE!"

YOUR *HONOR* IS SPOKEN OF-- *DAREDEVIL*-- EVEN WITHIN THE SNAKEROOT! I KNEW--YOU WOULD *TREAT* ME *FAIR*--

THE ATTACK IS SWIFT, ALMOST BRUTAL--

PLEASE-- NO!

--AND HARD IN REACTION TO THE ECHO OF UNEARTHLY TENDRILS SNAKING DOWN FROM ABOVE.

THAT'S *NOT NICE*-- WE *WEREN'T AIMING* FOR YOU!

GET *BISENTO* *OUT* OF HERE, SIEGE--*NOW!*

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIM!

THEY ARE VENOM.

ONE IS EDDIE BROCK, BITTER AND OUT OF STEP WITH SOCIETY.

THE OTHER IS A SYMBIOTIC ALIEN, FILLED WITH RESENTMENT AND FROM OUT OF THIS WORLD.

UNITED IN HATRED FOR THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN, THEY MAKE FOR A PARTICULARLY SPITEFUL FORM OF VIGILANTE--

--A SELF-PROCLAIMED AND SELF-CONGRATULATING LETHAL PROTECTOR.

LET'S GO, CHOP-SOCKEY!

WE ARE NOT AMUSED!

BISENTO IS OURS--GET USED TO THE IDEA!

HE CAN LEAD US TO THAT UNBALANCED DERELICT PASSIM, AND PASSIM'S THE KEY TO FINDING THE "ABOUT FACE" PROTOTYPE!

THE VIRUS BELONGS TO US! IT'S GOING TO WORK ON OUR ANATOMY--IMPROVE US EVEN MORE, IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT!--

--ELIMINATE OUR..."SENSITIVITY"... TO FIRE AND SOUND--

--AND LEAVE US *DWARFING* THAT BUG *SPIDER-MAN* WITHOUT QUESTION!

MUST BE NICE HAVIN' SUCH AN ACTIVE *FANTASY* LIFE.

BET YOU HAD AN *IMAGINARY FRIEND* WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...A SLIMY BLACK E.T. WITH *DENTAL PROBLEMS*, MAYBE?

ME, I JUST *PLAYED* WITH *TOY SOLDIERS*.

AND NOW THAT I'M ALL GROWN UP, *MY WAR GAMES*, ARE BIGGER, TOO.

ARE YOU *MOCKING* US, TIN MAN?

NO. JUST *TARGETING*.

HERE'S THE *DEAL* WITH THE *DAREDEVIL*-- SET HIM *LOOSE* NOW, AND I'LL ONLY *BLOW* YOU *HALFWAY* TO *KINGDOM COME*!

OH MY! THE BIG, BAD ROBOT FRIGHTENED US, YES HE DID!

HYPERSENSES RAGE, REBELLING AGAINST OTHERWORLDLY TEXTURE AND SCENT.

*DAREDEVIL FOCUSES PAST SENSORY REVULSION, WAITING FOR THE **STROBE** OF MOTION TO SIGNAL AN **OPENING**.*

LISTEN UP, "GIGANTOR"!... HERE'S THE WAY WE SAY IT'S GOING DOWN--

HRUUK

SNRRAK

EXTRATERRESTRIAL FLESH WARPS AND TWISTS TO DISLODGE THE CLUB.

MAN-MADE MUSCLES FLEX UP AND BACK, DAREDEVIL'S LEGS LOCKING BEHIND VENOM'S--

TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO CARES!

SEE WHAT GOOD GYM CLASS DOES YOU WHEN WE EAT YOUR BRAIN!

--AND LEAVING THE "LETHAL PROTECTOR" WITH NO DEFENSE.

SOMEBODY MUST'VE BEAT YOU TO IT...NO OTHER REASON I'D BE HERE DOING THIS!

CLEAR, SIEGE--

--TAKE HIM DOWN!

PICK THIS OUT FROM BETWEEN YOUR TEETH, VENOM!

BRAKAKOOM

WANNA PLAY WITH FIREPOWER, TIN-SOLDIER?

CAREFUL, NOW...

KRKNCH

...WE WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET BURNED...

SHRAANK

HRSSS

NATURAL GAS HAS NO ODOR. IT'S WHAT BROOKLYN UNION GAS MIXES IN THAT GIVES IT A SMELL: MERCAPTAN BASE COMPOUND--

--MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS SKUNK OIL.

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S CABLES RUN RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE GAS LINES HE'S TORN OUT--GET OUT OF HERE!

KLAAK

HRSSS

IS THIS YOUR IDEA-- OF FAIR TREATMENT?

ENHANCED SENSES FOLLOW THE BALLOONING STENCH AND HISS.

THWIT

HANDS MOVE QUICKLY, SWITCHING A TOOL FOR BATTLE WITH A MEANS OF ESCAPE.

THE NAME'S "SIEGE," HORNHEAD, NOT "RETREAT!" I NEVER GIVE GROUND!

MAYBE THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND SIEGE!

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO WIN US ANY FANS AT CON-ED...

THEN AGAIN "RETREAT'S" GOT A NICE RING TO IT.

KRAK-OOM

BISENTO--
GIRRK!

BE GOOD TO US, WE'LL BE GOOD TO YOU!

BUT KEEP US WAITING ON WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW, AND WE'LL DROP YOU OFF THE CHRYSLER BUILDING--ONE PIECE AT A TIME!

SLKRAASH

I WANTED--
I JUST WANTED A CHANCE TO DO SOME GOOD--

HOOKING UP WITH YOU SURE SOUNDED LIKE THE WAY TO GO... YOU GOT A REAL UNDERHANDED WAY WITH WORDS, DAREDEVIL!

EVER THINK OF BECOMING A LAWYER?

AND GIVE UP ALL THIS?

I'LL GET MY SYSTEM TO PROGRAM A SEARCH PATTERN--TRY ANYWAY! WE'RE CORING THIS BIG APPLE TO FIND THAT HARDCASE!

NO--WE'RE NOT GOING TO WASTE OUR TIME IN SOME KNOCK-DOWN DRAG-OUT!

THE VIRUS--EVERYBODY WANTS IT FOR SOMETHING! NOBODY'S HAPPY WITH WHAT THEY ARE--

--THE SNAKEROOT, VENOM, SOME BOOGEYMAN NAMED HELLSPAWN, EVEN YOU FOR ALL I KNOW!

WELL, ONE THING'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE--THIS CITY'S NOT TURNING INTO A SHOOTING GALLERY, NOT WHILE I'M AROUND!

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO STAGE A SHOWDOWN...

THE OFFICES OF THE BIG APPLE ADVOCATE.

THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL IN SMALL PRESS NEWSPAPERS.

DON'T GET US WRONG, SARA... WE APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO US WITH THIS STORY.

UNDERSTAND WE HAVE TO BE... CAUTIOUS... WITH SUCH POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL!

PRESS

ADVOCATE

LOU, C'MON-- ALL WE HAVE TO BE IS READY TO SELL OUT OF EVERY EDITION WE CAN PRINT!

THAT HEADLINE-- "MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL!" EXPOSING A SUPER HERO'S IDENTITY... THAT PUTS THIS PAPER ON THE MAP.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, STEVEY, IT'D PUT US IN THE BLACK. BUT AS TEMPTING AS THAT IS...

...I'M NOT COMFORTABLE THAT WE'VE COVERED OUR BACKSIDES!

LOOK, I'D LIKE TO HAVE MORE, UH, "HARD FACTS" IN MY FILES...

"YOUR" FILES, LITTLE GIRL... S'FUNNY. SOME A' THOSE NOTES LOOK A LOT LIKE ANOTHER REPORTER'S HANDWRITING-- BEN URICH.

WORKS AT THE BUGLE. YOU INTERNED THERE, DIN'TCHA?

FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT, WE CAN'T COMMIT TO MAKING THAT KIND OF DECLARATIVE STATEMENT WITHOUT BEING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE!

LOOK, I'M NOT LOSING MY BYLINE JUST BECAUSE I'M MISSING SOME PAPERWORK!

LOU? LOU, WHATTA YA SAY? I'M ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE-- ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE WE CAN WRITE OUR OWN TICKET WHEN THIS HITS THE STANDS!

I DON'T KNOW, STEVEY. I'M SORRY, SARA... I JUST DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN SAY THIS IN PRINT WHEN THERE ARE STILL QUESTIONS.

I DO.

EVIL?

SKRIIK

MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL?

WHEN'S THE SOONEST WE CAN GO ON PRESS?

SIXTH AVENUE AND EIGHTH STREET OUTSIDE THE BARNES & NOBLE.

STOP THE HATE

PORNOGRAPHY IS WOMAN-HATE! DON'T LET IT *INFECT* OUR LIVES!

AGAINST WOMEN

WHAT ABOUT *FREE SPEECH*?

DON'T *PUBLISHERS* OR FILMMAKERS HAVE AS MUCH *RIGHT* TO PRINT OR MAKE WHAT THEY WANT AS YOU DO TO *PROTEST* AGAINST IT?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING...

NO! WHAT IF THERE WERE SPECIAL *MAGAZINES* OR MOVIES WHERE WHITES *BEAT* BLACKS, OR CHRISTIANS BEAT JEWS?

BUT IF IT'S CALLED *PORN* AND WOMEN ARE *VICTIMS*, THEN YOU'RE SEEN AS A *PRUDE* OR *REACTIONARY* TO OBJECT!

STOP THE HATE

AGAINST WOMEN

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, JILLIAN! FOGGY'S A *LAWYER*-- HE'S *PAID* BY THE HOUR TO *RUN OFF* AT THE MOUTH!

I'LL GET YOU A *SODA* TO HELP *COOL* OFF!

THESE PICTURES-- THIS BROCHURE-- ¡UGH!¡- IT'S *DISGUSTING*, KAREN!

EXACTLY! SOFT FOCUS BIMBOS IN "IDLE RICH BOY" ARE ONLY THE *TIP* OF THE *DEGRADATION ICEBERG*.

WHAT'S THE DEAL, SHYSTER? YOU DIDN'T COME DOWN HERE TO *DEBATE* THE *LEGAL* ISSUES OF OUR *CAMPAIGN*, DID YOU?

TWO... THANKS!

DIET? I WAS HOPING FOR A "YOO-HOO!"

DIET

SHOULD'VE HAD YOUR LAST "YOO HOO" *TWO BELT NOTCHES* BACK.

NOW GIVE.

WELL, KAREN... IT'S ABOUT *MATT*...

...HE'S BEEN, I DON'T KNOW, *NEGLECTING* THE *OFFICE*--

--AND I'M THINKING IT'S SOMETHING... *PERSONAL*... THAT'S *TAKING* HIM AWAY!

UH-UH. NOT ME, FOGGY. I *STEER CLEAR* OF TOO MUCH PERSONAL STUFF WITH MATT. THINGS... THEY CAN GET...

IT STILL *HURTS* SOMETIMES. FROM WHAT *WE HAD*.

BUT WHAT YOU HAD MEANS YOU MIGHT BE MORE *FAMILIAR* WITH OTHER *ACTIVITIES*-- MATT MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN.

IT WOULD BE *EASIER* FOR YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT'S PULLING HIM AWAY. EASIER THAN *ME BRINGING* IT *UP*, ANYWAY.

I DON'T KNOW, FOGGY... IT *OPENS* A LOT OF *DOORS*, IT--

--THAT'S *NOT LIKE HIM*, TO SHIRK--IT MUST BE A REAL *NIGHTMARE* THAT'S--

I'LL... I'LL *SEE* WHAT I CAN *DO*... FOR MATT...

12th AVENUE & WEST 46th. THE USS **INTREPID** SEA-AIR-SPACE MUSEUM--

--NEARBY THE NIÑA, PINTA AND SANTA MARÍA **REPLICAS** BUILT TO COMMEMORATE **COLUMBUS'S** JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD.

ONE **AGE** OF **CONQUERORS** **SUPPLANTS** ANOTHER.

VENOM'S **SCENT**... THERE'S **NOTHING** **ELSE** LIKE IT ON THE **PLANET**. YOU **CAN'T MISS IT**.

I'LL **TAKE** YOUR **WORD**. THEY LEFT THE **SMELLER** **OUTTA** THIS **CAN**-- I GET AN "OLFACTORY ANALYSIS" GRAPH INSTEAD! LOTTA FUN!

GIVE US THE TRAMP **PASSIM**, AND WE'LL **GIVE** YOU YOUR **FREEDOM**!

OR MAYBE YOU **LIKE** OUR **TOUCH**..., MAYBE YOU'D LIKE IT FEELING ITS WAY **UNDER** YOUR **SKIN** AND MUSCLE TO **CRUSH** YOUR **HEART**!

WE NEED A **DISTRACTION**.

TAC.SYS.ENGAGE

I GOT **JUST** THE **THING**...

HOLO.TRAC.ON

NO! YOU WOULD USE HIM ONLY AS THE SNAKEROOT PLANS-- TO FIND THE **VIRUS** AND **USE** IT ONLY FOR **YOUR** OWN ENDS!

OUR OWN ENDS! **OURS**! WE WILL **NOT** BE **REDUCED** TO SOME PATHETIC **INDIVIDUAL**!

OH, **VENOM**... YEAH, ALL TWO'A YOU--

WHAT'S--?!

--YOUR SHIP JUST CAME IN!

HEH-HEH... ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT, TOO!

THE IMPACT IGNITES LINGERING FUMES IN THE BLACKBIRD JET'S FUEL TANK--

--AS WELL AS INFLAMING THE LETHAL PROTECTOR'S NEVER-TOO-COOL TEMPER.

THE WAR GAME ROBOT! COME DOWN AND LET US SHOW YOU HOW WE USED TO PLAY WITH TOY SOLDIERS!

BUY A BAG OF PLASTIC ONES FOR A BUCK TWENTY-NINE ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON--

BRAKOOM

--AND *MELT* THEM *DOWN* UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS!

THEY DIDN'T *SCREAM* MUCH-- EXCEPT *MAYBE* IN OUR *HEAD*-- BUT YOU WILL, *SIEGE!* SCREAM *LOUD* AND LONG!

WHAT NOW, LITTLE NINJA? LITTLE "BENEDICT ARNOLD" FIND SOME *BACKBONE*?

WORRY ABOUT YOUR *OWN ANATOMY*, VENOM...

N-NO...

...THE *HAMSTRING*, FOR EXAMPLE.

THWIP

WE'RE GOING TO *TEAR OUT* YOUR--

THAT *HANGING* THING YOU'VE GOT GOING--

YOU *CAN'T TRIP* US UP SO EASILY, DAREDEVIL!

--LOOKS *GREAT*--

SO IT *SEEMS*.

--VERY *MENACING*--

HRAAAGGK

--TOO BAD IT LEAVES YOU *WIDE OPEN.*

YOU *CAN'T EVADE* US ALL NIGHT!

SNRAAAP

SNRAAAP

KRAAK

SURE I CAN.

NOT THAT HE HAS TO WHEN I CAN *TOAST* YOU DOWN THE *LENGTH* OF THE *FLIGHT DECK!*

GUESS AGAIN, SMILEY...YOU'RE *BETWEEN* THE *DAREDEVIL* AND THE *DEEP BLUE* PLASMA *CANNON!*

STAND DOWN, SIEGE.

THWIIP

THWIIP

THWIIP

THAT'S THE *PLAN,* IS IT?! KEEP US *OCCUPIED* WHILE YOU GRAB THE *PRIZE* FOR YOURSELVES! NO, NO, NO, NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!

WHAT?!?

YOU HEARD ME. WE'RE GOING TO *TALK* THIS *OUT.*

I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF *CON* YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL...

A *DEMONSTRATION,* VENOM. TO SHOW YOU *WE CAN DANCE* AROUND EACH OTHER ALL NIGHT.

BUT IT'S *MORE IMPORTANT* YOU--BOTH OF YOU--*REALIZE* THE TERRIBLE *MISTAKE* YOU'D BE MAKING USING THAT *VIRUS!*

IT'S ONLY IN *OVERCOMING* ONE'S *HANDICAPS* THAT TRUE *HEROISM* IS *BORN.*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MISTAKE"?

ERASE YOUR "*SENSITIVITY*" TO FIRE AND SOUND AND YOU HAVE *NOTHING* MORE TO *TRIUMPH* OVER...

...AND YOU *LOSE* THE *EDGE* THAT MAKES YOU A *BETTER HERO* THAN SAY, *SPIDER-MAN!*

YOU'RE--YOU'RE *MESSING* WITH MY--WITH OUR--*HEAD!*

AM I?

DRAW YOUR OWN *CONCLUSIONS.*

"ONLY IN OVERCOMING ONE'S HANDICAPS THAT TRUE HEROISM IS BORN..."--OH, YOU *ARE GOOD,* HORNHEAD!

I'VE GOT TO BE... VENOM REPRESENTS ALL THE *UNPREDICTABLE DANGER* THIS VIRUS CONTINUES TO *THREATEN!*

I'M *NOT* GOING TO LET THAT KIND OF *SELF-CENTERED MENACE* TAKE *CONTROL*...OR *HELP ADD* TO IT! THE SNAKEROOT, BISENTO...AND EDDIE PASSIM.

WE ARE BETTER!

YOU'VE MADE GOOD ON YOUR WORD, DAREDEVIL, AND I SHALL MAKE GOOD ON MINE! TO MAKE *AMENDS*...AND TELL ALL!

TAKE HIM--AND THE DAMNABLE *VIRUS!*

WE'RE *GOING HOME* TO SAN FRANCISCO!

THEY MAKE THEIR BASE AT BELVEDERE CASTLE, WHERE *ERYNYS* GROWS *STRONG*...

...AND THE *ESSENCE* THAT *ANIMATES* HER IS THAT OF YOUR DEAD LOVER, THE ASSASSIN *ELEKTRA!*

THAT-- THAT CAN'T BE! *ELEKTRA*-- SHE'S--

GAARRK

YOUR TALK OF "*REFORM*" *SICKENS* ME, SNAKEROOT!

RADAR REFLECTS BACK THE *WEAPON* BURIED DEEP IN BISENTO'S BACK.

A REMINDER OF SOMEONE LONG GONE...

...*INSPIRING* A WHITE-HOT FLASH OF *RASH* AND IMPOSSIBLE *HOPE*.

THERE'S ONLY *ONE REDEMPTION* FOR YOUR KIND!

ANOTHER *SAI*--LIKE SHE ALWAYS *CARRIED!*

LIKE *ELEKTRA*...

LOOK WHAT WE GOT HERE...

IT'S *YOU*...

THE CATACOMBS BENEATH CENTRAL PARK'S BELVEDERE CASTLE.

WITH THE WICKEDNESS THAT IS THE SNAKEROOT.

IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER FOR YOU, EDDIE, IF YOU COULD JUST REMEMBER WHERE YOU DROPPED THE GLOBE WITH THE VIRUS...

...WHEN YOU BUNGLED THE TEST ALL THOSE YEARS AGO!

I NEVER CARED ABOUT YOUR TEST! I ONLY SIGNED ON TO THE PROGRAM-- SO'S TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO YOU--

--AND GET REVENGE FOR THERESA!

PTOO

YOU S.O.B., KENKOY!

THERESA... THERESA? OH! THE ONE WE CHOPPED UP FOR RAW MATERIAL IN "ABOUT FACE!"

WAS THAT HER NAME?

YOU LOVED HER, DIDN'T YOU, EDDIE?

BUT ONCE YOU GOT CLOSE TO ME, YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO DO ANYTHING BUT GO ALONG! THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A LEADER, EDDIE!

I'LL LEAD THE WAY TO THE VIRUS YOU LOST, WHERE ITS POWER WILL MAKE THE SNAKEROOT'S PARTIAL WARRIOR WHOLE...

...AND LET ME CREATE A HEROIN USER IMMUNE TO THE DRUG'S LETHALITY! AN ESCALATING BASE OF CASH-CUSTOMERS!

IS HE READY, BUDO?

HE HAS--KENKOY'S USING YOU! HIS OWN PLANS--

DOES IT MATTER, GENKOTSU? YOUR TORTURES UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE RELUCTANT TONGUE... AND THE FORGETFUL BRAIN.

SUCH DESPERATION. HOW SAD.

"SAD" DON'T SAY THE HALF OF IT...

NAME'S JOHN GARRETT. BAD NEWS SHIELD CYBORG HARDCASE. I THINK.

USED TO THINK I WAS THE PRESIDENT, TOO. BUT I'M BETTER NOW.

THE LOOKER CALLS HERSELF ERYNYS, BUT INSIDE SHE'S GOT SOMETHIN' OF A HOT NUMBER I CALLED ELEKTRA.

ALONG WITH OTHER NAMES I LEARNED AT THE "REAL MAN'S HARD CORE REVIEW" IN JERSEY CITY.

THEY PULLED THAT ELEKTRA PART OF HER OUTTA MY BRAIN. SAME GRAY MATTER THAT THOUGHT I WAS COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

...WHAT A LOSER!

SILENCE, GARRETT!

YEAH. OKAY.

BUT I'M BETTER NOW.

REALLY.

I THINK SHE WANTS ME.

NEXT: MORBIUS -- DESCENT!